

there are also reports on a few boroughs. These were privately printed in 1883 by Sir George Duckett under the title, Penal Laws and Test Act (2 vols.). The three questions to be asked each of the justices were: (i) whether in case he should be chosen knight of the shire or burgess of a town, when the King should think fit to call a Parliament, he would be for taking off the penal laws and the Tests ; (2) whether he would assist and contribute to the election of such members as should be for taking off the Penal Laws and Tests ; and (3) whether he would support the King's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience by living friendly with those of all persuasions as Christians and subjects of the same prince ought to do.

Ailesbury, who was Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire and Huntingdon, called together a meeting of the deputy lieutenants and justices of the peace. He found that not one agreed to the first and second questions, and to the third Pocklington only dissented \^x Many others declined to pledge themselves. Sir G. Blundell, a Bedfordshire deputy lieutenant, answered to the first question, (That as a private person he does not apprehend that he has any legal power to preengage himselfe against the acts of parliament established, before they have undergone an- other Parliamentary debate/ As to the second he said,

° he submissively answers, y^e occurrences are
so variable in
future contingencies by y^e order of Divine
Providence,
that he cannot pretend to a capacity of
determining before-
hand, what his thoughts and actions shall be in
progress of
time, as to affairs of this nature/ A
Huntingdonshire
deputy lieutenant replied to the first question
that' he thinks
it a great presumption in any person to
promise or engage
the making or abrogating laws, because when
he comes into

¹ Memoirs, i. 163.